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Peking Denies Stealing Missile

(Hong Kong Bureau of The Sun)

Hong Kong, Jan. 22—Communist China today called Soviet leaders liars for spreading reports that China stole Soviet nuclear and missile secrets.

Dispatches by an American news agency and a British paper in London, quoting Communist diplomats and East European sources, said earlier this month that the Chinese hijacked two Russian surface-to-air missiles and two anti-aircraft guided missile units in transit to Hanoi last spring for their own rocketry project.

Atomic Theft Charged

They also said China stole Soviet atomic secrets and had stopped Soviet arms from passing through its territory to North Vietnam.

The *People's Daily* commentator said today these were part of the countless rumors fabricated by the Soviet leaders to vilify China, according to a New China News Agency broadcast monitored here.

"Clearly these new vicious and fantastic anti-China rumors were poorly manufactured by the Soviet revisionist clique in a vain attempt to belittle China's notable success in guided missile nuclear weapons testing and disrupt the staunch militant unity of the Chinese Vietnamese peoples," the party paper said.

It asked why the Soviet leaders had kept silent so far if the Chinese had really hijacked Soviet missiles as far back as last spring.